

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 EB-08 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 TRSE-00 IO-13 /079 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:DTMORRISON:YW  
APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER  
NEA/RA:SEPALMER,JR  
NEA/ARN:DREUTHER  
L/NEA:MPEAY (INFO)  
EB/IFD/BP:TSCHELENKER  
NEA/ARP:JCOUNTRYMAN

-----019755 302207Z /62

R 302143Z JUL 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, SY

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SUBJECT: ARAB BOYCOTT: ACTION AGAINST MASONS AND OTHER  
PRIVATE/RELIGIOUS ASSOCIATIONS

REF: A) ALEXANDRIA 479; B) 76 STATE 27477; C) MANAMA 42;  
D) DOHA 653

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM SENATOR BYRD OF VIRGINIA

CONCERNING REPORTED DECISION OF JUNE 8-20 ALEXANDRIA BOYCOTT CONFERENCE TO ADD THE MASONIC ORDER TO THE BLACKLIST. (SEE ALEXANDRIA 479 REPORTING MAHGOUB'S EXPLANATION TO THE PRESS THAT THE MASONIC ORDER "HELD TWO CONFERENCES IN ISRAEL LAST YEAR"). SIMILAR REPORTS HAVE BEEN CARRIED IN U.S. NEWSPAPERS BUT OFFICIALS OF MASONIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION IN WASHINGTON HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION AS TO ACTION TAKEN, IF ANY, OR REASONS BEHIND SUCH ACTION.

2. IN ADDITION TO OUR NEED TO PROVIDE RESPONSE TO SENATOR BYRD AS TO FACTS INVOLVED, WE ARE CURIOUS AS TO REASONS WHY BOYCOTT OFFICIALS WOULD TAKE ACTION AGAINST FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION. MASONIC ORDER CLEARLY IS NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED IN BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS OF TYPE WHICH ARAB COUNTRIES HAVE LONG CITED AS OBJECT OF THEIR SECONDARY BOYCOTT PRACTICES. EMBASSY DAMASCUS REQUESTED TO TAKE THIS REPORTED ACTION UP WITH CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE, AS APPROPRIATE , TO DETERMINE THATACTION, IF ANY, HAS BEEN TAKEN AND REASON FOR SAME.

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3. PAST U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT BOYCOTT ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST CONGREGATION SHERIETH ISRAEL (REF B) HAVE BEEN CLEARLY REGISTERED WITH OFFICIALS OF INDIVIDUAL BOYCOTTING COUNTRIES WHERE LOCAL BOYCOTT OFFICES ARE KNOWN TO HAVE ADDED THIS RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION TO COUNTRY BLACKLIST. WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL AT THIS TIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR DAMASCUS TO RAISE THIS CASE WITH CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE. SPECIFICALLY, WE WOULD LIKE EMBASSY TO ASK WHAT PURPOSE CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICE SEEKS TO SERVE BY BLACKLISTING NON-COMMERCIAL, IN THIS CASE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION WHICH CLEARLY IS NOT SEEKING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN ARAB COUNTRIES. EMBASSY MAY NOTE DIFFICULTY IN TERMS OF RECONCILING THIS TYPE OF ACTION WITH STATEMENTS BY ARAB LEADERS AND BY BOYCOTT OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE ARAB BOYCOTT IS NOT BASED ON RELIGION OR CREED.

4. FOR YOUR BACKGROUND: QUICK READING OF LATEST (1974) BOYCOTT LIST (PUBLISHED BY LEBANESE ATTORNEY NAMED BENDALY) INDICATES THAT FOLLOWING ASSOCIATIONS ARE LISTED AS OBJECTS OF ARAB BOYCOTT:

- (1) KAISER FOUNDATION HOSPITALS
- (2) KAISER FOUNDATION SCHOOL OF NURSING
- (3) KAISER FOUNDATION MEDICAL CARE PROGRAM
- (4) LEIDESDORF FOUNDATION INC.
- (5) MUSHER FOUNDATION
- (6) PALESTINE ENDOWMENT FUNDS

- (7) AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
  - (8) AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS
  - (9) AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR RELIEF AND IMMIGRANTS INC.
  - (10) THE ANN AND EDGARBRONFMAN FOUNDATION INC.
  - (11) ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE OF B'NAI B'RITH
  - (12) B'NAI B'RITH
  - (13) B'NAI B'RITH HILLEL FOUNDATION
  - (14) B'NAI B'RITH REHOVOTH LODGE
  - (15) B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN
  - (16) COUNCIL OF JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES OF NEW YORK
  - (17) COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATION AND WELFARE FUNDS (CJWF)
  - (18) JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES(JWV)
  - (19) JEWISH WELFARE FUND
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- (20) LEFF FOUNDATION
- (21) LEMBERG FOUNDATION
- (22) NATIONAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL (NCRAC)
- (23) NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN INC. (NCJW)
- (24) NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD(JWB)
- (25) SHAPIRO (MICHAEL AND RAE) FAMILY FOUNDATION INC.
- (26) A.J.D.C. AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE
- (27) AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION (AAJE)
- (28) AMERICAN LABOR ORT
- (29) AMERICAN ORT FOUNDATION
- (30) CONGRESS FOR JEWISH CULTURE
- (31) O.R.T. (ORGANISATION DE RECONSTRUCTION ET DU TRAVAIL)
- (32) SHOLEM ALEICICHEM FOLK INSTITUTE
- (33) UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS COMMITTEE ON JEWISH EDUCATION
- (34) UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA: (COMMISSION OF JEWISH EDUCATION)
- (35) YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

5. (TWO ORGANIZATIONS -- UNITED JEWISH APPEAL FOR FILM INDUSTRY AND THE ASSOCIATION JEHOVA -- ARE LISTED AS "FIRMES LIBEREES."

6. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW PARTICULARS OF ABOVE ASSOCIATIONS' ACTIVITIES, WE DOUBT THAT ANY IS ENGAGED IN BUSINESS-TYPE DEALINGS WITH ANY FOREIGN COUNTRY. NOR IS ANY OF THESE ASSOCIATIONS LIKELY TO SEEK ECONOMIC TIES OF THE TYPE WHICH ARAB BOYCOTT GENERALLY PROSCRIBES. ON APPROPRIATE OCCASION, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO POINT OUT TO CENTRAL BOYCOTT OFFICIALS THE APPARENT SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF NON-COMMERCIAL AND, IN MANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CASES, RELIGIOUS OR ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE  
BEEN BLACKLISTED.

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**To:** DAMASCUS  
**Type:** TE  
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